

FLAGS

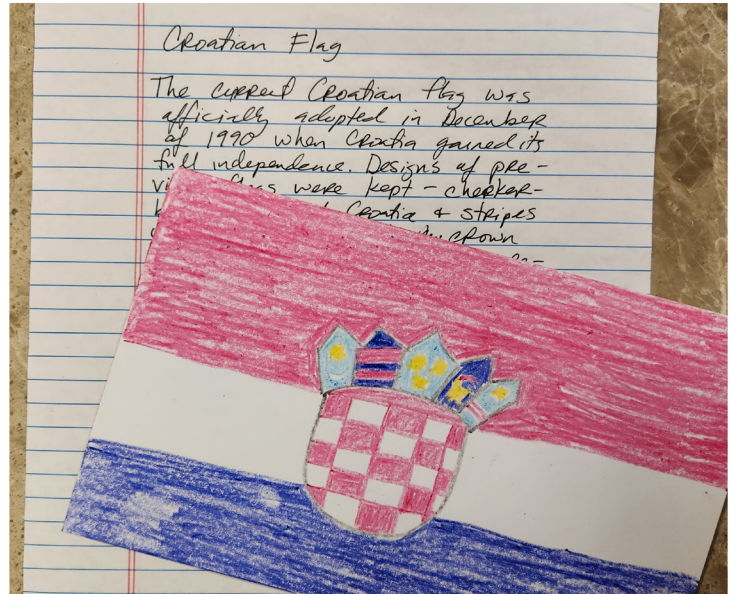
Flags are used by people around the world to signify territories, groups and organizations, people, movements, and many other things. In *Of Natural Causes*, we explore the iconography of the Mexican flag and how it was designed to depict the story of how the Aztecs decided upon the land to build their great city, which is present day Mexico City. According to lore, the gods directed the Aztecs to search for a golden eagle atop a cactus holding a serpent in its beak and talons. The location of this animal would be the site the Aztecs were to build their great city. This image is the focal point in the middle of the Mexican flag, floating over three colored panels of green, white, and red, representing victory, unity, and honor respectively. There are many other fascinating flag origin stories, starting with the Danish flag which holds the Guinness World Record as the oldest continuously used national flag, and how the Confederate Flag of Truce was not actually a flag at all, but a dish rag. This dish rag was flown by Confederate troops during their surrender in 1865. In this lesson you will discover new flags and the meaning behind them.

LEARNING STANDARDS:

ANCHOR 6: convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work

ANCHOR 7.1: identify and interpret works of art or design that reveal how people live around the world and what they value

SSS2.6-8.1: create and use research questions to guide inquiry on an issue or event



MATERIALS:

Internet access
Paper
Pencil or pen
Markers, crayons, or colored pencils

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Use the internet to research flags, choosing one flag that is of interest to you.
2. Write a description of the flag – what it looks like, the meaning behind its images and colors, and anything else you find important.
3. Draw an image of the flag to present with your description.
4. Share your work with your family, friends, or classmates.